

Q256327  
Amend

18. A longitudinally flexible stent for implanting in a body lumen and expandable from a contracted condition to an expanded condition, comprising:

a plurality of adjacent cylindrical elements which are independently expandable in the radial direction and arranged in alignment along a longitudinal stent axis;

5 the cylindrical elements formed in a serpentine wave pattern transverse to the longitudinal axis and containing a plurality of alternating peaks and valleys;

at least one interconnecting member extending between adjacent cylindrical elements and connecting them to one another;

a reinforcing member extending across only one of each said peaks and valleys; and

10 the serpentine wave pattern configured in size and shape so that the cylindrical elements generally expand in a uniform manner around their circumferences during expansion of the stent from its contracted condition to its expanded condition.

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